

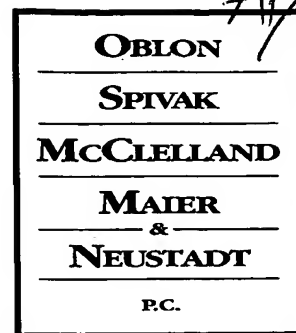


"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1775"

Docket No.: 244860US0SX

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/699,825

Applicants: Hideshi TEZUKA

Filing Date: November 4, 2003

For: LONG-LIFE HEAT-RESISTING LOW ALLOY
STEEL WELDED COMPONENT AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 1775

Examiner: LA VILLA, MICHAEL

SIR:


Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
W/ATTACHMENT (SYMPOSIUM ARTICLE)**

Our credit card payment form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
HIDESHI TEZUKA : EXAMINER: LA VILLA, MICHAEL
SERIAL NO: 10/699,825 :
FILED: NOVEMBER 4, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1775
FOR: LONG-LIFE HEAT-RESISTING :
LOW ALLOY STEEL WELDED
COMPONENT AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING THE SAME

RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

Request for Reconsideration begins on page 2 of this paper.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicant thanks Primary Examiner Michael Lavilla for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the interview held on March 21, 2006. At that time, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the differences between the claimed invention and the EP 1143026 reference, as argued in the Response filed August 31, 2005. Applicant's representative also discussed the various types of creep damage that may occur in welded components, and how type 4 creep damage that is specifically prevented by the manufacturing method of the claimed invention. Applicant's representative further provided evidence of the type 4 creep damage prevented by the claimed invention, as demonstrated by Applicant's symposium article and the present specification, which is discussed below. The following remarks further expand upon the discussion with the Examiner.

Claims 1-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1143026 A1 ("EP'026").

This rejection is traversed, since the reference does not describe or suggest a manufacturing method or welded component of the claimed invention.

The reference only discloses a heat resistant steel which may be produced by general methods, such as melting, casting, and hot working (see, e.g., page 4, paragraph [0022] and page 11, paragraph [0074]), without any disclosure or indication of the prevention of type 4 creep damage from a welded component or welding whatsoever. Moreover, it is noted that the creep damage described in the reference at pages 2-3, paragraphs [0009] to [0017], is a creep damage of the base metal, which is not created in the fine grained region of the heat-affected zone (HAZ) of a welded component. Thus, even though a heat treatment is disclosed in the reference (see page 11, paragraphs [0076] to [0078]), which is described as a